

through an open window, though they don't know if it had been forced open or left open, Aurora police said. Her purse, credit cards and jewelry were inside, but investigators found evidence that led them to believe foul play was involved in her disappearance.

dog along the Illinois Prairie Path northeast of Butterfield and Kirk Roads discovered a badly decomposed body.

Dental records, the body's size and clothes found at the site led police to believe it was Bethell, West said.

Evidence teams have been

ment on whether there was an sign of a struggle. Evidence gathered from Bethell's car is being analyzed at a crime lab.

"To date we continue to have no solid leads," Aurora Police Department spokesman Dan Ferrelli said.

Bethell had worked as an ad

# Lakefront park has costly hurdle

## \$6 million needed to replace seawall

By Charles Sheehan  
Tribune staff reporter

A new engineering study suggests that a lot more work and money may be needed to transform one of the city's last undeveloped stretches of lakefront into the waterside gem it was envisioned to be nearly two decades ago.

Mayor Harold Washington first dedicated the land at the mouth of the Chicago River as DuSable Park in 1987. Despite being sandwiched today between booming condo developments downtown and bustling Navy Pier, the 3-acre meadow has somehow clung stubbornly to its industrial past.

The recent study, for which divers inspected the park's seawall, found that the revetment must be replaced at a cost of about \$6 million, driving the cost of the entire park close to \$12 million.

That is an increase of about 30 percent from a preliminary request for proposals of \$9 million put out in August last year, according to officials with the steering committee for the park.

For park advocates, it's just the latest setback for a piece of real estate that they say is an essential link between open land along the lakefront.

As recently as 2002, engineers believed the seawall that holds the manmade landform together could be repaired for about \$2.5 million, according to Bob O'Neill, a member of the steering committee.

There has never been a completion date set for DuSable by the Park District, and it is not known whether the cost of the seawall or its replacement will set the project back, said Arnold Randall, director of planning and development.

Getting a firm grasp on the cost of the project is the first step toward completion, he said.

"People would like it to be done right away," Randall said. "The discussions I've been part of for the last year and a half have basically been about what it's going to cost, and we need some additional funding because the reality is, we don't have it fully funded."

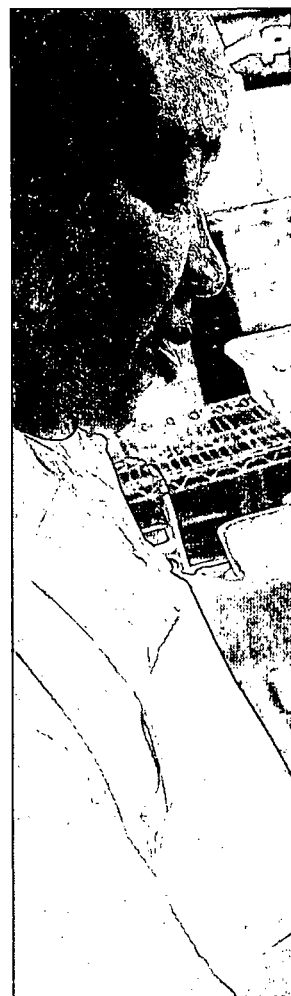
*'Thousands of tourists float by this place on boats every day. It needs to get done.'*

—Bob O'Neill

With \$1.5 million earmarked by the Park District, \$3 million from the city and a million or so from private sources, only about half the needed funds to complete the park have been secured.

Attempts to finish the park have hit snags over the years. Today, DuSable Park remains a throwback to a time when Navy Pier was a lengthy stretch of dank warehouses and Millennium Park was home to a greasy, open-air train yard.

As recently as two years ago, the cost of the entire park, including repairs to the seawall, was believed to be about \$5 million, much less than the new es-



Aunt Obie's owner Charles  
a Black History Month project

## Elk Grove's

By Liam Ford  
Tribune staff reporter

When Elk Grove Village was founded almost 50 years ago, it had about 100 residents, many descendants of German immigrants who were selling off their dairies and oat fields.

Now with about 34,000 residents, the community will mark its first half-century this summer by giving away a new

Eric Zorn is taking the day off.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



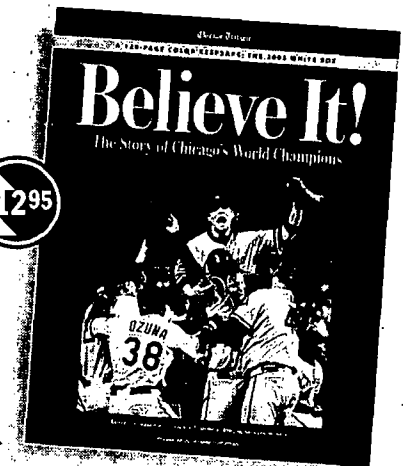
248543

PLEASE SEE DUSABLE, PAGE 6

# f Sox

## White Sox's Magical Season

swriter Phil Rogers charts the  
ago's first world championship  
ars in a 288-page hardcover book.



**557 TODAY!**

'when ordering.  
nd \$1.00 each additional book.

# ISTMAS E SALE

's Day  
No Interest for 12 Months



Tribune photo by E. Jason Wambsgans

Replacing the seawall around DuSable Park will drive the park's total cost up to about \$12 million.

## DUSABLE: District has raised nearly half of cost

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

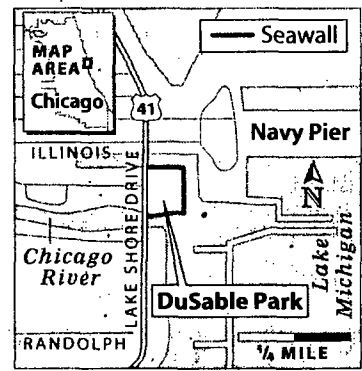
timates for the seawall alone, said Erma Trantor, executive director of Friends of the Parks. "We're all disappointed because even the \$5 million was a large price tag," she said. "We are disappointed because we had hoped there would be some ability to move in 2006 to construct the park, and it's already more than a decade behind."

The site lay dormant for years after it was dedicated, even as Navy Pier was transformed into a playground in plain sight of DuSable Park, which today is hemmed in by a chain-link fence and littered with cans, bottles and trash bags.

The project was delayed further after it was found that the land had been polluted in the 1930s by a radioactive byproduct of a lantern plant, one of a number of industrial businesses that dumped filth in the area for about a century.

## Seawall needs overhaul

The 65-foot-deep seawall that holds DuSable Park together must be replaced at a cost of \$6 million, according to a new study.



Source: Chicago Park District  
Chicago Tribune

Cleanup, or more precisely the argument over who would pay for it, set the project back about two years and was completed in 2002.

There are forces converging to make the park happen.

The Art Institute of Chicago has commissioned renowned sculptor Martin Purveyor to begin work on a piece in honor of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, using \$500,000 from its fund dedicated to public sculpture.

Working designs for the park exist. Developers have pledged hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete the park, an attractive selling point for posh

condos.

Park advocates say the park named for DuSable, the first non-Native American settler in Chicago, is much more important than a marketing tool for condo sales.

There are few places in Chicago with more historical significance and few that are seen more by out-of-towners than DuSable Park, said O'Neill, who is also president of the Grant Park Conservancy.

"This land is hidden in plain view and it's nestled right up to one of the top tourist sites in the world. It's right on the lake, it's right downtown," O'Neill said. "Thousands of tourists float by this place on boats every day. It needs to get done. It's as simple as that."

The Park District is actively pursuing city, state and federal funding, Randall said.

Advocates say there is a silver lining in the recent study in that it brings more attention to an important piece of lakefront, a parcel of scrub brush and trash that most people look beyond for a view of Navy Pier or the marinas.

"A lot of people didn't pay attention to Millennium Park or other places, which began as pamphlets or someone's idea," O'Neill said. "I see this as light at the end of a tunnel. It's been a long tunnel, granted."

csheehan@tribune.com

Cool Cat